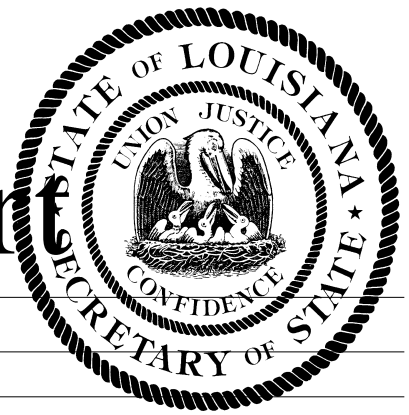




Joseph Keithen

State Report



The Official Journal of Louisiana's Office of the Secretary of State

Winter 2001

Vol. 4 Number 3

Happy Holidays from Fo

As another year draws to an end, I reflect on a year gone by and look to the future as many exciting new programs are developed at the Secretary of State's Office. One of these programs is the continued development of the Multimedia Research Center at the Old State Capitol.

We have begun the process of

Military Voting

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen and the Department of Defense have teamed to provide military personnel abroad with information about the 2002 elections schedule and absentee voting requirements.

An informational recording can be accessed by calling the Department of Defense Voting Center at 1-800-438-8683 and then entering the two number code for Louisiana (52). For additional information, contact the Secretary of State Elections Department at 225-342-4970.

digitizing the Old State Capitol's video collection, and by the middle of 2002 we will be able to make these historic clips available to researchers and educators around our state. In addition to our current collections, we have recently received a donation by Helen G. Berrigan, U. S. District Court Judge, Eastern District of Louisiana, who served as Camille Gravel's secretary and law clerk for many years. Her donation consists of interviews with Mr. Gravel sharing information about his law and political career, as well as his relationships with prominent, former Louisiana politicians.

If you possess historical and/or political video, please consider donating your collections to the Old State Capitol so that it becomes part of a "living" history for all interested persons.

On another front, Louisiana, like most states, adopted the newly Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code effective July 1, 2001. One area of national reform was for each state to create a statewide filing system. Fortunately, when our state adopted the UCC in 1990 we implemented a statewide, centralized filing system that still allowed filers the convenience of filing at the local clerks of court offices. UCC financial statements are presented at the local level, and the data is then entered into a statewide system maintained by the Secretary of State's Office, thereby satisfying the need to maintain a statewide system and the want of the filer to file locally. This state and parish partnership proved so successful that three other states have since implemented similar filing

Systems. For helpful information on filing in our state, visit our website at www.sec.state.la.us or call 1-800-256-3758.

As part of our continuing growth in the secretary of State's museum program, we will be adding several new museums to the system in the upcoming year.

The Timbermill Museum in Garyville, an incredibly interesting old building with a unique history, is now under our guidance.

We have also begun work on the Delta Music Museum in Ferriday which will honor the incredible musicians and music from the area. The grand opening will include a multi-city Musical Cavalcade beginning there in March to honor the first hall of fame inductees, Mickey Gilly, Jerry Lee Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart.

Finally, we have the Grambling Eddie G. Robinson Museum in to honor the achievements of the legendary coach

Exhibit Museum Project

The Louisiana State Exhibit Museum recently completed several projects and plan many more for the upcoming year. Projects recently completed include:

- (1) landscaping, which received the Greenwood Road Corridor Association's annual beautification Award,
- (2) waterproofing the entire building, and
- (3) a complete conservation/restoration of the famous outdoor Albrizio frescos by internationally acclaimed restorationist, Elise Grenier.

In addition to an interesting 2002 exhibit schedule, the Birch Medicinal Garden will be planted soon at the museum.

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Welcome New First Assistant

In July, the Secretary of State's office welcomed a new First Assistant Secretary of State. He is Al Ater of Waterproof, La. Al replaces E. Wayne Watts who retired due to health problems.

The long time Concordia Parish resident is a graduate of Huntington High School and attended Northwestern State University. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1984 and was re-elected without opposition in 1988.

Instrumental in writing tax laws, Al also served on the Rural Caucus Committee and was a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. He chose not to seek another legislative term in 1992, but returned to Concordia Parish to fully devote his time to farming and business.

Al enjoys spending time with his wife Susie and children, Whitney, 24; Thomas, 16, and Elliott 14.



Clerk of Court Seminar held at Louisiana State Archives



Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen and Louisiana State Archives staff hosted a statewide Clerk of Court Seminar on September 22, 2001. The day-long seminar addressed various questions and concerns expressed by the clerks.

Topics covered were Uniform Commercial Code revisions, records management, preservation of colonial records, disaster

planning and recovery procedures, commission and publication services, and services available on the Secretary of State's website.

Lunch was provided and the First Stop Shop, the Secretary of State's business licensing information center for current and potential business owners, celebrated its 10th anniversary with cake for dessert.

Coach Eddie Robinson Museum Board Convenes

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen convened the first meeting of the Board of Governors for the Coach Eddie G. Robinson Museum on September 7, 2001, in Ruston, Louisiana. Senate Bill number 919 of the 1999 Louisiana Legislature sponsored by Senator Randy Ewing and Representatives Baylor, Clarkson, Dupre, Fontenot, Glover, Hudson, Jetson, Pierre, Pinac, Pratt, Quezire, Weston, Wilkerson, Willard, Winston, and Wright, created the Eddie Robinson Museum Commission. The legislature recognized that it was appropriate to establish a museum to honor the legendary football coach.

McKeithen spoke briefly to the crowd, addressing his remarks directly to Coach Robinson, citing the coach's commitment to America's youth and to his integrity on and off the playing field. "Your help and support is essential to the success of this project. I invite you to join us as we begin our work to honor one of the greatest college football coaches ever," said McKeithen.

Louisiana Music Cavalcade Rolls



Mickey Gilley (right), Jimmy Swaggart (center), and Jerry Lee Lewis (left) will be inducted into the Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame.

The Louisiana Music Cavalcade, sponsored by Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen and the Louisiana State Archives, rolls into Ferriday, Louisiana on Saturday, March 2, 2002.

The event is the first stop of a traveling music festival designed to celebrate Louisiana's unique musical heritage. A star studded day is planned at the new Delta Music Museum as music legends Mickey Gilley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Reverend Jimmy Swaggart are inducted into the Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame. The jazz great Pee Wee Whitaker will be inducted posthumously.

"We hope to unite the trio of singing cousins on stage as Ferriday welcomes home her native sons. Mickey Gilley and Jimmy Swaggart have

committed to be present for their induction and Jerry Lee Lewis' presence would be the icing on the cake," said McKeithen.

The new Delta Music Museum will consist of interpretive and interactive exhibits focusing on the history, music and culture of the Louisiana/Mississippi Delta region.

"We plan to honor many more natives of the Louisiana/Mississippi Delta region-people who have distinguished themselves nationally and internationally, not only in music, but in various fields of endeavor such as education, business and athletics," said McKeithen.

The next stop in the Cavalcade journey is Winnsboro on April 13.

The final stop of the Cavalcade will be Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium. Singing sensations Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard

will be on hand to welcome the Cavalcade's arrival in Shreveport. Hank Williams, Jr., who recently recorded portions of his new album at the Shreveport auditorium, has been invited to join the festivities..

Said McKeithen, "This traveling music show is the first of many more to come. We envision the Louisiana Music Cavalcade growing even bigger as more cities 'jump on the bandwagon'."

Mark Your Calendar
La. State Archives
Hosts

Louisiana Native
Americans Exhibit ,
March 3 through
May 31.

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